

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TOKYO 05881 070751Z
ACTION EA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6869

S E C R E T TOKYO 05881

LIMDIS

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (FUKUDA, TAKEO)
SUBJECT: FUKUDA VISIT: MEETINGS WITH CONGRESS

REF: TOKYO 4903

1. PM'S PRIVATE SECRETARY OWADA CALLED ON AMBASSADOR APRIL 6 TO DISCUSS FUKUDA VISIT, INCLUDING PARTICULARLY PM'S MEETINGS WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS (REFTEL). OWADA RECALLED THAT PM'S SESSION WITH CONGRESS LAST YEAR HAD LACKED FOCUS, WITH MEMBERS COMING AND GOING CONSTANTLY, MAKING CONCERTED DISCUSSION DIFFICULT. JAPANESE SIDE HOPED TO AVOID SIMILAR SITUATION THIS TIME AROUND, AND WAS EVEN CONSIDERING ALTERNATIVE VENUES. FOR EXAMPLE, AMBASSADOR TOGO HAD SUGGESTED AS ONE POSSIBILITY INFORMAL DINNER AT RESIDENCE, OR RECEPTION, RATHER THAN MEETINGS AT CAPITOL.

2. AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT IF IMPORTANT VOTES WERE SCHEDULED, SOME DISRUPTION OF MEETINGS ON HILL MIGHT BE INEVITABLE, AS PM COULD WELL UNDERSTAND, BUT HE DOUBTED IT WOULD BE SERIOUSLY DISTRACTING. AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED THAT DESPITE ITS POTENTIAL DRAWBACK, I.E., CERTAIN UNAVOIDABLE LACK OF FOCUS IN INFORMAL GATHERING OF BUSY

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 05881 070751Z

LEGISLATORS, MEETINGS AT CAPITOL WITH SELECTED SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES WERE BY FAR MOST EFFECTIVE FORUM FOR TALKING BUSINESS AND WOULD MAKE BEST IMPRESSION ON CONGRESS. AFTER SOME FURTHER DISCUSSION OWADA AGREED.

3. AMBASSADOR REITERATED HIS READINESS TO CONTACT LEADERSHIP OF HOUSE AND SENATE TO FACILITATE MEETINGS,

ALTHOUGH HE WOULD FIRST WANT FIRM CONFIRMATION THAT THIS WAS HOW PM WISHED TO PROCEED. OWADA FELT SURE PM WOULD AGREE AND PROMISED TO CONFIRM ASAP. IN MEANTIME, AMBASSADOR IS CABLING MAJORITY LEADER AND SPEAKER TO INFORM THEM OF LIKELY MEETING REQUESTS AND ASK THEIR ASSISTANCE IN MAKING ARRANGEMENTS, MENTIONING AS TENTATIVE TIMES MAY 2 FROM 2:30 TO 3:30 FOR SFRC AND FINANCE COMMITTEES, AND 3:45 TO 4:45 FOR HIRC AND WAYS AND MEANS. WHEN OWADA CONFIRMS PM'S AGREEMENT, AMBASSADOR WILL FOLLOW UP WITH CALLS TO CHAIRMEN OF RESPECTIVE COMMITTEES. AMBASSADOR WILL NOTE THAT DEPARTMENT WILL BE IN TOUCH TO ARRANGE DETAILS. AMBASSADOR WOULD PLAN TO ACCOMPANY PRIME MINISTER TO BOTH MEETINGS.

4. PLEASE ADVISE IF FOREGOING PRESENTS ANY COMPLICATIONS. AMBASSADOR WOULD PLAN TO CONTACT CHAIRMEN EARLY NEXT WEEK ASSUMING OWADA CONFIRMS. MANSFIELD

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NNN

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